

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

Date: April 9, 2019

Re: Montana State Library Executive Budget and Legislative Overview

Budget:

As previously reported, in February, the Joint Appropriations Education Subcommittee voted to adopt all the decision packages in the Governor's Budget for the State Library. These packages include a statewide present law adjustment for personal services to help restore FTE (SWPL – 1), other fixed costs and inflationary present law adjustments (SWPL – 2 & 3), present law to account for the additional percentage of Coal Severance Tax funds authorized to the State Library by the passage of House Bill 648 in the 2017 session (PL – 5), authority adjustments to bring Montana Land Information Account and Library Services Technology Act grant budget authority in line with typical expenditures (PL – 7), and the new proposal that reduces by 1 FTE, the total number of current level FTE from 30.46 to 29.46 FTE (DP - 9).

On March 28, Senate Finance and Claims passed an amendment to House Bill 2 that added an additional \$250,000 to the State Library Budget, over the coming biennium. This funding is in addition to the statewide present law adjustment previously approved by the budget subcommittee.

[House Bill 633](#) was passed by the Legislature and is going to the Governor for his signature. This bill will create a state special revenue account that could be used to collect various types of revenue and that requires the Legislative Finance Committee to conduct an interim study to identify what those revenue sources might be. Commission Chair sent a letter to Governor Bullock urging him to sign the legislation.

Other legislation of interest:

House Bill 14 has largely been replaced by [House Bill 652](#). The infrastructure proposal creates a grant program for rural local governments and broadband installation is one of eligible projects that the program could fund. This bill passed the House and is awaiting Executive Action in the Senate Finance and Claims Committee.

[House Bill 150](#): This bill is a basic cleanup bill to further update Next Generation 911 laws. Per current law, it allows the temporary GIS account used to fund the existing GIS assessment to expire. This bill was passed by the Legislature and is now going to the Governor for signature. No other NG 911 legislation was formally heard this session.

[House Bill 175](#): The State Pay Plan Bill, as carried in HB 175, was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. The pay plan includes \$.50/hr raises for state employees in each of the next two fiscal years beginning January 1. This bill also updates per diem rates for travel.

[House Bill 354](#): The State Library was an informational witness at a hearing before the House Education Committee where the Montana Library Association opposed HB 354, a bill that fine public libraries that possess or makes available sexually explicit materials. The Committee tabled this bill on February 8 and missed the transmittal deadline.

[Senate Bill 53](#): This bill would also update meal reimbursement rates but, rather than mandating a dollar amount for per diem, it would tie reimbursements to the federal rates. This bill was not concurred by the House after 2nd reading on April 8 and therefore may be dead.

[Senate Bill 349](#): This bill was originally intended to restrict whom might receive location information for animal species managed by Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP). MSL was concerned that this legislation might be used to restrict what data FWP shares with MSL. Ultimately the bill has been amended so that it does not restrict access to data but instead penalizes those that misuse the data. This bill has cleared the Senate is scheduled for a hearing in the House today.

[Senate Bill 355](#): MSL and the Montana Library Association were proponents for this bill which would have required net neutrality in Montana. This bill was tabled by the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee and missed the deadline for transmittal.